(d) The Government is seized with the problem of sickness in SSI units and has taken various measures to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick industries, which *inter-alia*, include institutional mechanism in the form of State Level Inter-Institutional Committee (SLIIC), special rehabilitation cells in Banks and State Financial Institutions and elaborate guidelines issued by RBI for extending rehabilitation assistance to eligible units. Further, with a view to strengthen the SSI sector and enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally, the Government has announced a comprehensive policy package on 30.8.2000 which consists of, *inter-alia*, enhanced fiscal and credit support, better infrastructural and marketing facilities and incentives for technology upgradation. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has also been assisting the sick units through fiscal concessions and has been extending relief and concessions to them by waiving penal interest, rescheduling of principals and funding the interest on loans given by the State Financial Corporation and Banks, as per RBI guidelines.

Sick SSI units

†4552. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any plan to identify sick Small Scale units;

(b) the number of Small Scale units which were in the sick category in the last financial year;

(c) the amount of investment made in these units; and

(d) the number of units out of the above which can be rejuvenated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Reserve Bank of India has issued detailed guidelines to commercial banks on definition of sick SSI units, and classification of advances into various categories which help in the identification of sick units.

(b) to (d) As per the latest data compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the number of sick small scale industries as at the end of March, 2000 were 3,04,235 with outstanding Bank loans of Rs. 4608.43 crores. Out of these 14,373 SSI units were identified as potentially viable.

Growth rate of SSI

†4553. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the present growth rate of the SSI in the country according to the latest position, State-wise;

(b) whether the present growth rate is very low as compared to the growth rate achieved during the last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to improve the growth rate in small scale industry sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The annual growth rate of production of the SSI sector in the country has been estimated (provisional) at 8.90% for the year 2000-2001. The State-wise estimates are not available.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The estimated annual growth rates of production during last three years *i.e.* 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are 8.43%, 7.70% and 8.16% respectively.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.